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ABSTRACT

This document addresses the CLAST results for Miami Dade Community College (M-DCC) in 2002. The results can be useful in developing strategies to enhance the CLAST pass rates of M-DCC students. Specifically, the document addresses the following three areas: first time and retake pass rates, performance of first time examinees by skill area, students earning mathematics alternatives. The author suggests that students' skills improvement should focus on these areas since it is likely to enhance the students' performance and increase the likelihood that they will pass the subtest. Some of the key findings of the report are as follows: (1) pass rates from 2002 are higher in essay, reading, and mathematics subsets as compared to the 2001 results; (2) despite the M-DCC increases in most of the pass rates, they still remain low; (3) performance of first time examinees by skill area shows little change since 2001; and (4) in 2002, there was a 33% increase in the number of students who earned a CLAST alternative in Mathematics as compared to 2001. Contains nine tables, which show the statewide first time examinees in each public institution and statewide results for retake examinees. (MZ)

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Miami-Dade Community College
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INFORMATION CAPSULE: CLAST RESULTS-FEBRUARY 2002

CLAST First-Time and Retake Pass Rates Increase

Pass rates from the February 2002 administration were higher in the Essay, Reading, and Mathematics subtests compared with February 2001 results. Essay and Reading first-time results reflected an increase of 6 percentage points and Mathematics first-time results reflected an increase of 2 percentage points. Pass rates also increased for students retaking the English Language Skills subtest (45% passed, a four percentage point increase compared to February 2001) and for students retaking the Reading subtest (64% passed, a fourteen percentage point increase compared to February 2001).

College-Wide CLAST Pass Rates

	First-Time		Retake	
	February 2001	Feburary 2002	February 2001	February 2002
Essay	**65%** *(N=259)*	**71%** *(N=291)*	**61%** *(N=94)*	**54%** *(N=83)*
English Lang. Skills	**52%** *(N=265)*	**46%** *(N=322)*	**41%** *(N=163)*	**45%** *(N=134)*
Reading	**48%** *(N=240)*	**54%** *(N=304)*	**50%** *(N=147)*	**64%** *(N=137)*
Mathematics	**38%** *(N=318)*	**40%** *(N=352)*	**47%** *(N=246)*	**47%** *(N=242)*
Total Test	**30%** *(N=137)*	**25%** *(N=159)*		

Although M-DCC achieved increases in most of the pass rates, they still remain low. This is not surprising since most of the students currently taking the CLAST are the least academically prepared for the exam as they have probably earned C grades in all of the courses applicable to an alternative. The pass rate for students taking the entire test dropped to 25%, but the number of students is small (159).

For this administration, students were most successful in the first-time Essay and retake Reading subtests and least successful in first-time Mathematics and retake English Language Skills subtests. Campus results for the February 2002 administration are given in Table 1 attached.

Performance of First-Time Examinees by Skill Area Shows Little Change

Results from the February 2002 paper and pencil administration reflected a few increases and decreases. In Mathematics, there was a 1 percentage point increase in Statistics and Probability and a 1 percentage point decrease in Algebra. The pass rates in the remaining three skill areas of Arithmetic, Geometry, and Logic did not change. In Reading, there was an increase of 2 percentage points in Critical Comprehension and a decrease of 2 percentage points in Literal Comprehension. In English Language Skills, there was a 1 percentage point increase in Word Choice and a 5 percentage point decrease in Sentence Structure and Grammar.

Students in the February 2002 administration were most successful in the skill areas of Word Choice (76% passing), Critical Comprehension (68% passing), and Statistics and Probability (68% passing) within each of the broad skill categories. In all of the skill areas, the performance of M-DCC students was generally lower than the Statewide rates for public universities and community colleges (see Table 2 attached).

CLAST Skill Areas

	# Items	% Correct Feb 2001	% Correct Feb 2002
English Language Skills:			
Word Choice	4	75%	76%
Sentence Structure	12	77%	72%
Grammar	19	79%	74%
Reading:			
Literal Comprehension	9	63%	61%
Critical Comprehension	27	66%	68%
Mathematics:			
Arithmetic	12	62%	62%
Algebra	16	59%	58%
Geometry	8	53%	53%
Logic	6	51%	51%
Statistics & Probability	8	67%	68%

These results can be useful in developing strategies to enhance the CLAST pass rates of M-DCC students. Students' skills improvement should focus on those areas, which include a high number of questions on the subtest(s). This would likely enhance their performance and therefore increase the likelihood that they will pass the subtest(s).

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Students Earning Mathematics CLAST Alternatives Increase by 33%

During the February 2002 administration period, **1,619 students earned a CLAST alternative in Mathematics (a 33% increase compared to February 2001)** and 345 students were exempt from the entire CLAST (a 53% increase compared to February 2001). This is partially explained by an increase in mathematics course enrollment during the 2001-1 Fall Term (compared to 2000-1 Fall Term) and an increase of 777 more "A" and "B" grades that could have counted towards the awarding of an alternative for the mathematics subtest of the CLAST. In addition, 3,609 students earned a CLAST alternative (a 11% increase compared to 2001) during this administration. As in the past, more alternatives were granted in the communications subtests of Essay (2,268), English Language Skills (2,281), and Reading (2,296) than in the Mathematics subtest (1,619), but the gap between the communications and mathematics subtests has narrowed. Finally, most students no longer take the CLAST - they earn an alternative. Education majors are the exception, as they need to take and pass the CLAST for their program.

CLAST Alternatives Granted Between November 1, 2001 - February 28, 2002
By Campus and College-Wide

Campus	Essay	English Language Skills	Reading	Math	Total Test	Unduplicated Number of Students
North	504	509	518	314	57	783
Kendall	1,022	1,031	1,035	716	170	1,602
Wolfson	440	438	438	336	74	707
Medical Center	91	91	93	53	16	130
Homestead	102	102	101	91	15	182
InterAmerican	108	109	110	109	13	204
College-Wide	2,268*	2,281*	2,296*	1,619	345	3,609*

*Campus designator not reported for one student. Alternative earned is included in College-wide figures.

CLAST Alternatives Granted

	Nov. 1 through Feb. 28 2001	Nov. 1 through Feb. 28 2002	Percent Change
Essay	2,143	2,268	6%
English Lang. Skills	2,173	2,281	5%
Reading	2,185	2,296	5%
Mathematics	1,219	1,619	33%
Total Test	226	345	53%
Total Students	3,247	3,609	11%

Notes on Method:

Test results of the February 2002 CLAST administration are reported for M-DCC students who took the CLAST at M-DCC and at other institutions. Results also include Computer Adaptive Test (CAT-CLAST) administrations for M-DCC students who took the CLAST at M-DCC and at other institutions during the period of November 1, 2001 – February 28, 2002. Results are reported for first-time examinees, retake examinees, and students earning alternatives to the CLAST requirement during the above period. Campus results are presented using the students' home campus designation.

The Statewide First-Time Examinees in Each Public Institution report is displayed in Table 3, while Table 4 shows Statewide results for retake examinees. Comparisons with other institutions should not be made due to different criteria in effect for allowing students to take and retake the CLAST, as well as awarding alternatives to the CLAST. Also, the number of M-DCC students taking the test and corresponding pass rates depicted in the State tables may differ from M-DCC results due to reporting procedures.

Silvio Rodriguez:ab

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Table 1

Pass Rates for February 2002 CLAST by Campus and College-Wide

First-Time Examinees*

	College Wide	Campus					
		North	Kendall	Wolfson	Medical Center	Homestead	Inter-American
Essay	71% (N=291)	72% (N=60)	73% (N=149)	72% (N=53)	33% (N=3)	91% (N=11)	47% (N=15)
English Language Skills	46% (N=322)	52% (N=65)	47% (N=151)	51% (N=63)	25% (N=4)	43% (N=14)	20% (N=25)
Reading	54% (N=304)	58% (N=57)	57% (N=147)	48% (N=63)	75% (N=4)	50% (N=12)	43% (N=21)
Mathematics	40% (N=352)	47% (N=73)	38% (N=170)	44% (N=66)	0% (N=6)	33% (N=15)	36% (N=22)
Pass-All-Four	25% (N=159)	29% (N=21)	23% (N=93)	30% (N=27)	0% (N=1)	22% (N=9)	25% (N=8)

Retake Examinees

	College Wide	Campus					
		North	Kendall	Wolfson	Medical Center	Homestead	Inter-American
Essay	54% (N=83)	40% (N=17)	61% (N=33)	42% (N=19)	0% (N=0)	50% (N=4)	70% (N=10)
English Language Skills	45% (N=134)	50% (N=22)	48% (N=64)	31% (N=26)	100% (N=1)	60% (N=5)	38% (N=16)
Reading	64% (N=137)	52% (N=21)	78% (N=64)	56% (N=27)	100% (N=2)	17% (N=6)	53% (N=17)
Mathematics	47% (N=242)	61% (N=44)	46% (N=120)	42% (N=45)	83% (N=6)	29% (N=14)	31% (N=13)

*"N" and pass rate may differ from State data due to reporting procedures. Includes M-DCC students tested at other institutions, and/or CAT-CLAST results between November 1, 2001 - February 28, 2002.

Table 2
College-Level Academic Skills Test
Public First Time

Date of Test: February 16, 2002
Institution Name: Miami-Dade Community College

Broad Skill Area	Number of Subtest Items	% Correct in Institution	% Correct in State	Range in Public Institutions	% Correct in Universities	% Correct in Community Colleges
Mathematics						
Arithmetic	12	62	67	59-74	66	67
Algebra	16	58	62	48-75	61	62
Geometry	8	53	59	52-70	60	59
Logic	6	51	52	38-65	52	52
Statistics & Probability	8	68	73	61-82	74	73
Reading						
Literal Comprehension	9	61	69	60-76	70	68
Critical Comprehension	27	68	75	68-81	76	73
English Language Skills						
Word Choice	4	76	85	76-100	85	85
Sentence Structure	12	72	78	69-86	79	77
Grammar	19	74	79	71-85	80	77

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Table 3

CLAST RESULTS FOR FEBRUARY 16, 2002

MEAN SCALE SCORES AND PERCENT OF EXAMINEES MEETING 1992 STANDARDS

FIRST-TIME EXAMINEES IN EACH PUBLIC INSTITUTION

REGION AND INSTITUTION	ESSAY			ENG LANG SKILLS			READING			MATHEMATICS		
	NUMBER TESTED	% PASS	MEAN	NUMBER TESTED	% PASS	MEAN	NUMBER TESTED	% PASS	MEAN	NUMBER TESTED	% PASS	MEAN
PANHANDLE REGION	697	88	7.4	659	71	310	656	80	311	810	55	298
CHIPOLA JUNIOR COLLEGE	28	93	7.4	26	77	310	26	73	308	28	68	304
FLORIDA A & M UNIVERSITY	123	80	6.7	121	53	299	120	63	299	139	29	285
FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY	281	93	7.8	271	84	319	270	93	319	408	63	302
GULF COAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE	51	96	7.7	52	65	313	52	75	312	73	55	300
NORTH FLORIDA JUNIOR COLLEGE	19	79	6.5	19	53	296	19	63	302	24	46	287
OKALOOSA WALTON COMMUNITY COL.	63	92	7.7	57	70	307	57	81	308	46	57	298
PENSACOLA JUNIOR COLLEGE	50	90	6.9	54	74	308	33	76	312	23	52	303
TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE	61	79	6.8	59	63	303	58	69	307	39	72	305
UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA	21	71	6.7	20	60	300	21	90	314	30	47	287
CROWN REGION	790	90	7.4	676	71	313	666	82	313	699	56	299
CENTRAL FLORIDA COMMUNITY COLLEGE	112	87	7.0	112	63	309	112	80	311	113	58	296
FLORIDA COMMUNITY COLLEGE AT JAX	120	88	7.0	119	59	303	119	72	306	9*	36	292
LAKE CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE	34	88	7.3	34	71	316	31	87	318	42	50	298
SANTA FE COMMUNITY COLLEGE	92	89	7.2	0			0			0		
ST. JOHNS RIVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE	84	88	7.3	84	71	309	84	83	307	96	51	295
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA	184	92	8.0	185	81	325	182	85	321	194	69	310
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH FLORIDA	164	93	7.5	142	77	312	138	85	314	163	56	296
EAST CENTRAL REGION	801	88	7.3	788	69	310	789	78	311	937	58	299
BREVARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE	95	87	7.4	95	78	313	95	77	312	126	60	299
DAYTONA BEACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE	83	88	7.0	83	53	303	83	69	309	96	53	295
INDIAN RIVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE	57	88	7.4	57	67	307	56	86	314	42	81	312
LAKE SUMTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE	20	95	8.3	20	75	313	20	100	319	36	78	308
SEMINOLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE	72	79	6.9	73	63	303	73	78	309	72	58	297
UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA	211	92	7.8	204	80	321	206	89	321	276	63	303
VALENCIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE	263	86	7.0	256	63	306	256	70	304	289	48	293
WEST CENTRAL REGION	992	87	7.2	976	64	309	976	78	311	1,273	50	295
EDISON COMMUNITY COLLEGE	62	89	7.1	62	69	307	62	77	306	62	52	297
FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY	56	93	7.6	48	67	314	48	83	314	46	54	297
HILLSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE	123	85	6.8	124	60	310	124	73	309	141	50	296
MANATEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE	51	84	7.0	51	59	309	51	88	314	50	58	299
PASCO-HERNANDO COMMUNITY COLLEGE	51	96	7.2	51	75	312	51	80	312	70	60	301
POLK COMMUNITY COLLEGE	67	91	7.2	67	67	307	67	76	309	72	51	297
SOUTH FLORIDA COMMUNITY COLLEGE	32	91	7.1	32	56	306	31	77	312	32	47	294
ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE	150	83	7.2	147	59	306	148	77	310	171	53	296
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA	400	86	7.2	394	65	309	394	78	312	629	46	292
SOUTH REGION	1,094	74	6.6	1,065	54	301	1,039	62	300	1,333	40	290
BROWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE	133	82	6.8	130	65	305	130	71	304	141	47	296
FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY	306	71	6.5	295	55	301	298	58	297	433	37	287
FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY	244	79	6.9	238	61	308	238	75	306	395	44	291
FLORIDA KEYS COMMUNITY COLLEGE	4	100	7.3	4	100	325	4	100	308	8	13	278
MIAMI-DADE COMMUNITY COLLEGE	293	71	6.5	285	47	296	257	54	297	252	37	289
PALM BEACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE	114	70	6.4	113	42	291	112	55	295	104	41	290
STATE TOTALS	4,374	85	7.1	4,164	65	308	4,126	75	309	5,052	51	295
STATE UNIVERSITIES	1,990	85	7.3	1,918	69	312	1,915	78	311	2,713	50	295
COMMUNITY COLLEGES	2,384	84	7.0	2,246	61	305	2,211	72	307	2,339	51	296

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Table 4

CLAST RESULTS FOR FEBRUARY 16, 2002

MEAN SCALE SCORES AND PERCENT OF EXAMINEES MEETING REQUIRED STANDARDS

RETAKE EXAMINEES IN EACH PUBLIC INSTITUTION

REGION AND INSTITUTION	ESSAY			ENG LANG SKILLS			READING			MATHEMATICS			ALL SUBTESTS	
	NUMBER TESTED	% PASS	MEAN	NUMBER TESTED	% PASS	MEAN	NUMBER TESTED	% PASS	MEAN	NUMBER TESTED	% PASS	MEAN	NUMBER TESTED	% PASS
PANHANDLE REGION	128	61	5.7	204	38	287	192	57	293	387	32	283	33	6
CHIPOLA JUNIOR COLLEGE	1	100	7.0	3	67	302	3	33	297	2	50	294	0	
FLORIDA A & M UNIVERSITY	54	48	5.2	80	29	288	78	56	297	139	23	278	16	6
FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY	35	60	5.7	68	47	280	67	54	283	145	37	285	11	0
GULF COAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE	6	67	5.8	12	17	283	11	45	286	17	12	282	1	0
NORTH FLORIDA JUNIOR COLLEGE	3	100	6.7	7	29	294	8	63	310	18	22	282	2	0
OKALOOSA WALTON COMMUNITY COL.	5	100	7.4	4	75	309	3	100	322	10	50	298	0	
PENSACOLA JUNIOR COLLEGE	7	86	6.6	3	67	303	2	50	296	5	60	294	1	0
TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE	5	80	6.4	11	55	303	5	60	299	7	86	316	0	
UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA	12	67	6.2	16	31	291	15	73	301	44	41	286	2	50
CROWN REGION	82	63	5.7	81	37	289	94	71	304	188	36	287	8	38
CENTRAL FLORIDA COMMUNITY COLLEGE	12	75	6.2	3	33	278	2	100	315	6	67	292	1	100
FLORIDA COMMUNITY COLLEGE AT JAX	15	67	5.7	21	52	294	29	69	304	2	35	282	1	0
LAKE CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE	3	33	4.3	6	0	282	4	50	299	14	36	284	0	
SANTA FE COMMUNITY COLLEGE	4	25	4.0	0			0			0			0	
ST. JOHNS RIVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE	5	60	6.2	16	13	292	17	65	302	25	44	289	1	100
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA	27	74	6.0	25	52	286	37	76	305	99	35	288	5	20
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH FLORIDA	16	50	5.4	10	30	287	5	80	311	21	24	285	0	
EAST CENTRAL REGION	111	57	5.7	129	32	289	150	67	303	309	38	288	17	6
BREVARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE	7	57	5.6	6	33	291	15	67	302	40	43	292	1	0
DAYTONA BEACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE	15	53	5.3	17	12	276	19	42	294	44	36	287	2	0
INDIAN RIVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE	5	40	5.4	3	33	298	5	100	308	5	80	302	0	
LAKE SUMTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE	5	60	6.4	7	43	291	5	40	300	10	30	293	3	0
SEMINOLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE	9	67	5.9	20	30	286	28	89	308	21	29	287	0	
UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA	36	53	5.6	30	33	292	29	66	301	109	39	287	6	17
VALENCIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE	34	62	5.9	46	37	293	49	63	305	80	38	287	5	0
WEST CENTRAL REGION	140	54	5.6	164	36	290	168	64	300	275	35	287	26	8
EDISON COMMUNITY COLLEGE	6	50	5.2	14	36	292	15	73	306	24	46	292	2	50
FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY	5	60	5.8	1	0	293	1	100	295	3	0	287	1	0
HILLSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE	25	56	5.2	47	38	292	47	57	299	66	26	283	11	9
MANATEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE	6	67	6.3	10	40	297	9	67	305	16	31	290	1	0
PASCO-HERNANDO COMMUNITY COLLEGE	5	60	6.2	11	45	295	17	65	308	27	44	290	0	
POLK COMMUNITY COLLEGE	11	82	6.5	17	24	285	25	68	296	23	48	287	1	0
SOUTH FLORIDA COMMUNITY COLLEGE	2	0	4.0	4	25	289	5	60	296	10	50	293	0	
ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE	27	41	4.9	48	31	286	38	61	297	77	27	286	8	0
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA	53	55	5.9	12	58	296	11	73	306	29	45	287	2	0
SOUTH REGION	343	47	5.4	412	33	288	484	69	301	980	34	285	48	4
BROWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE	18	56	6.1	35	49	293	35	71	301	48	48	290	4	0
FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY	132	43	5.3	157	29	286	195	69	300	436	30	283	20	0
FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY	88	52	5.5	113	35	289	129	77	307	350	37	287	12	8
FLORIDA KEYS COMMUNITY COLLEGE	1	100	6.0	2	0	275	4	75	297	6	17	282	0	
MIAMI-DADE COMMUNITY COLLEGE	75	49	5.5	71	37	289	82	65	300	98	45	287	4	0
PALM BEACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE	29	38	5.0	34	26	282	39	46	293	42	26	281	8	13
STATE TOTALS	804	54	5.6	990	35	288	1,088	66	300	2,139	35	286	132	8
STATE UNIVERSITIES	458	52	5.5	512	35	287	567	68	300	1,375	33	285	75	7
COMMUNITY COLLEGES	346	56	5.6	478	35	290	521	64	301	764	37	287	57	9

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